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HIGHLIA ALLINERA/ POSTHEMA NETWORK Charlene Watson, owner of Soft Touch Soaps, tells Trish Rybski, of Fonthill, about her company's homemade bath products during the Kinsmen Craft Show. See full story on





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JULIE JOCSAK/POSTWEDIA NETWORK

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne visited Glynn A. Green Public School in Fonthill to announce funding for 100,000 more child care spots for children up to the age of

Wynne talks hydro, health

Postmedia Network

While reducing electricity bills for low-income ratepayers across Ontario. Premier Kathleen Wynne said the provincial government is also "taking significant next steps" to help make energy more affordable for everyone else, too.

Wynne was at Glynn A. Green Public School in Pelham, last Tuesday discussing her government's previously announced plans to increase licensed child-care spaces by 100,000 over the next five years, starting in 2017.

But for a handful of protesters who gathered outside the school during her visit, the escalating cost of electricity was more of a concern

Welland resident Phil Gladman joined several other protesters, carrying signs outside the school during Wynne's visit, primarily concerned about "faulty billing" and "extreme hydro rates."

Asked about the concerns, Wynne said ratepayers across the province will benefit from the elimination of Ontario's eight per cent share of the HST charged on energy bills, as well as through the removal of the debt retirement charge

She called the initiatives "the next step" in the province's plans that have already led to the Ontario energy support program for low-income Ontarians.

"We heard from people that it wasn't

We heard from people that it wasn't just low-income Ontarians who are struggling. In some cases there are people with higher income who still need support."

Premier Kathleen Wynne

just low-income Ontarians who are struggling. In some cases there are people with higher income who still need support," she said... In addition, about 150,000 people in

rural and remote communities will see another 12 per cent bill reduction for a total savings of 20 per cent, while about 1.300 companies will save up to 34 per cent through the industrial conservation initiative.

"We're taking significant next steps," the premier said Gladman said protesters were also concerned about the "carbon tax that everyone is still completely uninformed shout

See WYNNE from page 21

Fonthill Kinsmen's craft show gaining support

Postmedia Network

The annual Fonthill Kinsmen Craft Show has seen a steady increase in support over the past several years. Vendors lined the hallways of Welland Centennial Secondary School last Saturday and Sunday, Bob Wastle, Kinsmen communications director, said there has also been a steady increase in vendor participation in recent years. In

2015 there were shout 75 vendors, but this year there were 95 Wastle said last year there were about 780 visitors on the Saturday, but this year there were more than 900 om Sat-

urday alone "It's been a big increase since last year ... I think the biggest thing is we are really good at advertising," Wastle said about why he thinks there's been more participation from the community.

Money raised through the door entry fee and vendor fees will be used to support organizations in Niagara. This year the club chose to support Special Olympics and Women's Place of South Niagara.

Although the club is based in Fonthill it's important for a Niagara group to support the region as a whole, Wastle said. Reaching out to other communities and groups in the region makes Niagara stronger, he added.

"We spread out a bit ... The need is great and one of the biggest things we support in Fonthill is Pelham Cares and organizations the Kinsmen are supthere is a huge need in the community from Pelham Cares. We help them ou with their annual food drive at Christ.

We spread out a bit ... The need is great and one of the biggest things we support in Fonthill is Pelham Cares and there is a huge need in the community from Pelham Cares. We help them out with their annual food drive at

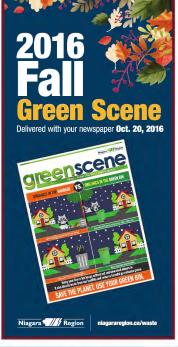
Christmas time " Kinsmen communications director

mas time," Wastle said. The Kinsmen welcomed the help of

the Fonthill and District Kinettes to make the fundraiser craft show a success. Member Sherry Frost said the clubs work together often to ensure the community receives the assistance it

The Kinettes organized a penny sale draw with about 90 prizes. Frost said the money raised by the draw would be used to support a local cause. The Kinettes will vote on what they feel is most in need of assistance, but Frost said it could be used for the same

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PehamNEWS POSTMEDIA

COMMENT

Encouraging vibrant downtowns



ou must have noticed the ongoing construction on Pelham Street at Churchill in downtown Fontbill

This private-sector work, renewing the building and adding apartments, is part of the general revitalization and redevelopment of Pelbam's private and public realms in our down-

You may recall that a decade ago the down towns in both Fonthill and Fenwick were tired and drab. Quite frankly, they did not reflect our vibrant community and they needed desperate renewal

Encouraged by the Pelham Business Association that the town should take action, I called together a community meeting in the spring of 2007. At that meeting, dedicated residents and business owners stepped forward to establish an ad hoc, community-based committee to help advance downtown revitalization. Shortly thereafter, those citizens approached council to become an official town committee - the Downtown Beautification Committee.

The dedicated Committee members actively advanced beautification of our downtowns by encouraging council to undertake and develop a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) along with improvements to the streets, sidewalks and parking, council followed through on these elements

See AUGUSTYN on Page 5



The north end of Pelham St. between Regional Rd. 20 and Broad St. is now undergoing reconstruction as part of the revitalization of downtown Fonthill, Ont. The work is the last stage in the \$2.5-million reconstruction of the street

The winnowing of Niagara schools continues



ve known for some time this isn't your father's public school system in Niagara. But just in case someone was holding on accommodation review. Goodness knows there have been enough

of these reviews over the past 25 years. Most, perhaps all, of them have looked at areas that suffered from the double whammy of low birth rates and extremely limited population growth. It's a bad combination for healthy school enrolment.

Combine a steep drop in students with the high cost of maintaining aging, half-vacant buildings and you've got a recipe for school closures, one the DSBN has not been shy at to the belief that schools are built to serve

The latest area under review, though, misses one of those key elements. Thanks to its closer proximity to the

Greater Toronto Area, west Niagara is the lone growth spot of any consequence in the peninsula.

From 2006-2011, the population Jumped in all three west-end municipalities - Grimsby (5.8 per cent), Lincoln (3.5 per cent) and West Lincoln (5.1 per cent). The hike compares favourably with the Ontario average of 5.7 per cent during this period, and far exceeds the Niagara rate of 0.9 per cent.

Alas, the greatest increase in all three cases is in the seniors' demographic bracket,

age 65 and over. The number of old cats in Grimsby went up 15.9 per cent, in Lincoln the bike was 13.6 per cent and in West Lincoln the increase was a whopping 25.9 per

At any rate, the DSBN wants to close South Lincoln High School, Grimsby Secondary School and Beamsville Secondary School. South Lincoln is barely banging on with 269 students as of last October, and Beam-

sville and Grimsby are a little more than half full in aging buildings that face steep renewal

hille

See HEROD on Page 5

Stimulus funding assistance

First thanks to stimulus funding from the Fed. eral and Provincial governments, we revitalized the public realm in downtown Fonthill in 2010/11. A one-day celebration in 2011 - Pelham Summerfest marked the end of this considerable work.

Second, we worked to revitalize downtown Fenwick - including repairing and designating the historic flagpole in 2013, and reconstructing and revitalizing the sidewalks, parking and roadway in 2014/15. Last spring, it was my honour to accept a regional award recognizing excellence in that recon-

Third, we worked very closely with the community from 2007 to 2010 to develop design guidelines and an incentive program to encourage upgrades to private properties. We not only developed grants to encourage façade improvements, but to also increase the number of residential units.

The renovation and construction at Churchill and Pelham Street is the tenth property in downtown

grams, Others include; Volcano's Pizza, Zest Restaurant, Fonthill Inn. II-Turn Décor and More, Pelham Street Grille and Goods Sports Excellence, Mokus Restaurant, Fonthill Fitness & Fonthill Dental Clinic.

Together, these represent nearly one-third of all the buildings in the downtown district on Pelham

A few years ago the region studied the benefit of these type of programs and found that for every dollar invested or deferred in a Niagara downtown. the incentives generated \$9 in private sector investment. We are pleased to see similar investments in our downtowns. Council and I will continue to promote and fund these programs so that we might further encourage vibrant downtowns.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayordave@pelham.ca to suggest future column or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.ca.

Considering school closures



HILLIE MORRAY/DOSTMENIA METWORK

Expect to witness more school-closure meetings like this at District School Board of Niagara, warns Doug

HEROD FROM PAGE 4

Wait a minute!, you cry. GO trains are coming! With the arrival of daily rail commuter service in Grimsby, surely west Niagara municipalities will have to fend off GTA expatriates with a stick.

Nope. The school board received population forecast data from Niagara Region, and even if one uses the "high growth" scenario, the enrolment numbers for the three high schools in question would basically be the same in 10 years' time as they are now. I have no idea how the local municipalities will react to the DSBN's plan to close the schools,

although past experiences in other localities suggest they won't be happy. It's a municipal testosterone thing. However, as bas been the case in similar situations, the school board is offering a pot of gold at the

end of the accommodation review rainbow. A large new school with all the latest amenities and the ability to offer a significant "breadth of programming" will be built to serve the public educa-

tion needs of the three municipalities. The size of the school (projected capacity of 1,600)

is no big deal across the rest of the province. The Niagara board, particularly the old Lincoln County part has a small-school history, though, so there might be some blowback on that front

Whatever. What DSBN staff recommends going into these reviews is usually what they get. And if the board succeeds in closing three old

schools in west Niagara to get one new one, that result would further cement this particular template

going forward. So, enjoy Port Colborne High School while you

I don't imagine the good people of Port Colborne believe otherwise. It's an old, less than half empty building with no chance of a change in fortune.

The hope for Port Colborne is that any new school built to house its students plus those from, say, the southern part of Welland will be located in Port.

Again, it's that civic pride thing, But it's just not Port Colborne. Who knows how the rest of the DSBN high school landscape will look in 10 years' time.

If closures can happen in the region's highest growth area, they can bappen anywhere in Niagara.

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MAKEUME PRINCESSIVED METHOR

Learne James, a Salvation Army mobile outreach worker, makes a stop in the community response unit to hand out food to people in need in Port Colborne.

Homelessness funding falls short of need

MARYANNE FIRTH Postmedia Network

The modest increase Niagara will receive to fight homelessness is not enough to address the growing local need, says Regional Chairman Alan Caslin. The Region learned last week it will get an additional

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Tune-up

sozu,000 in provincial runding over the next two years through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, an amount that will not relieve existing area pressures.

"Unfortunately, the announcement falls short of what we really need for our homelessness programs right here in Niagara," Caslin said, adding regional council had made it a priority to see that funding increased.

Niagara will receive \$7.2 million in CHPI funding in 2017-18 and \$7.5 million in 2018-19, compared to \$6.9 million in 2016-17. The province announced

last week it is providing \$632

two years, including \$45 millon in new funding, to help
families and individuals at
trisk of homelessness stay in
their homes or get the housing they need through various services and prevention
programs.

That includes \$14 million in new CHPI funding in Simcoe County. Contributions to other communities have yet to be approunced

There was hope Niagara would see a sizeable boost in funding to more accurately reflect the issue in the area, Caslin said.

Story continued on Page 20



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Sobevs Fonthill

Bell tolls for Sacre Coeur neighbours

It was something neighbours had never heard before. After years of flawlessly chiming to welcome parish ioners to church, the bells of Sacre Coeur played a sour note on a Saturday evening nearly two months ago.

"I enjoy hearing the bells ringing all the time," said Nathan Gelka, who lives a

block away from the church on

one day, we were sitting at home and all of the there was a bad note - something I've never heard in 15 years."

the old Sacre-Coeur church was unveiled.

Daniel Roy, a facilities maintenance worker at the church. was preparing for the unveiling when he heard the bad note from the backvard of his

"It was just a bang," he said.

"It just sounded sick He said parish priest Rev. Julien Beaulieu ran outside It happened on July 16 — a and was joined by "people day before the monument to from all over the neighbourhood who were just coming out to see what happened. "I thought the bell broke or something," Roy said.

Story continued on Page 18

"It did."



Nathan Gelka and Tom Kennedy install a clapper in the large bell at Welland's Sacre Coeur church.



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Niagara Catholic using free apps system from Google

WAYNE CAMPBELL Special to Postmedia Network

A multi-device apps system is spreading through online classes that contain Niagara's Catholic schools. *Niagara Catholic has gone Google," education superintendent Ted Farrell resources. told trustees last Tuesday as

for Education (GAFE). company.

GAFE into its 49 elementary and eight secondary to District School Board of schools The cloud-based platform allows students and teach- ensures that staff and stu- creating more ways to make

puters, tablets, cellphones or other device anytime and anywhere.

course information and assignments, while they use print, sound and video

"The Educational Techhe introduced Google Apps nology Services Department, in moving to cloud schools. With him are two It's a free service offered based platforms, has creto schools by the Internet ated over 25,000 accounts so that both students and staff well. Following a year of assess- can use the Google Apps ment, the board is bringing for Education suite of products," Farrell said in a report

Niagara trustees. The move to GAFE ers to access, exchange, cre- dents have access to a free ate, collaborate and com- suite of digital products ment on lessons using com- that is accessible regard-

less of the device used both at school and at home. The GAFE tools include a word Teachers can create processor (Docs), presentation tool (Slides), spreadsheet (Sheets), e-mail

account (Gmail) and unlimited file storage (Drive)." Learning contact Mark Di Tomasso oversees introduction of GAEE in the hoard's

digital learning coaches, Ryan Desson and Jeff Max-They help teachers adopt

the apps program as a teaching tool More teachers are starting to use it. Di Tomasso said.

With experience, they are it fit their needs. During a year of evalu-

The move to GAFE ensures that staff and students have access to a free suite of digital products that is accessible regardless of the device used both at school and at home. The GAFE tools include a word processor (Docs).

presentation tool (Slides), spreadsheet (Sheets), e-mail account (Gmail) and unlimited file storage (Drive)."

> Ted Farrell. education superintendent

became confident in its use other and the teacher. and improved performance while strengthening their ation, he said, students ability to share with each

"What is in it for Goggle?" asked board Chair Rev. Paul

Google is providing the

Farrell said part of the motivation is to build skill sets for a possible future workforce. Students would be adept with using Google in their future lives St. Catharines trus-

tee Kathy Burtnik said she hoped parents would be involved in the process. Schools are informing parents through letters or

at open houses. Di Tomasso Student trustee Nico Tripodi called GAFE a fantastic resource that

enhances learning. Classmates who are using it, he said, find it changes the way they learn and gives them a way to catch up when they miss a day.







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\$5.65M overrun faced by cop shops

BILL SAWCHUK Postmedia Network

The Niagara police services board received an early warning that it may end up \$5.65 million over-budget on its new police facilities.

A report by Niagara Region project manager Mislay Koren to the committee in charge of overseeing the new headquarters and Niagara Falls detachment as well as the to-bebuilt St. Catharines detachment said they are "tracking" to exceed the \$83 million approved for both projects.

The combination headquarters and Falls detachment on Valley Way is all but complete - with some finishing touches and landscaping left.

The St. Catharines detachment will be built in the Niagara Street and Welland Avenue area. It is still in the design phase and been't gone out to tender vet, committee chair Ken



HIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETHORK

The new Niagara Regional Police headquarters at 5700 Valley Way in Niagara Falls police board would end up Gansel cautioned Nonetheless, should the at regional council asking

Gansel wondered aloud why inflation wasn't worked mates for the two projects. The final estimate for the headquarters project is \$66.856.109. The estimate for the St. Catharines detachment is more than \$19,330,415, plus costs for a contentious 911 backup

centre and site enabling. "I've been running my own spreadsheets and, since, 2009, based on two per cent inflation per year, be project should bave been funded at \$95,000," Gansel said

Police hoard chair Rob Gale also said he also couldn't understand why inflation wasn't factored into the cost.

"Based on that, we are actually under-budget," he said. "Inflation should have been in there, but none of us were here then." One of the sticking points driving up costs is the 911 backup centre that would be part of the St. Catharines detachment.

With the current communication centre based at the

new headquarters in Niagara Falls, the backup centre in St. Catharines would he able to take over in an emergency and keep the communications system up

and running. The question is the cost for something that would sit idle much of the time.

The police board is only willing to allocate \$1 million. Consultants estimate it will cost more than \$2.8 million, Koren said.

Based on the discussions at recent meetings, a solution to the impasse doesn't appear imminent. Board member Vaughn Stewart reminded the

committee that site enabling costs are the result of regional council's decision to shoehorn the St. Catharines detachment into the downtown core for political reasons, a location that wasn't necessary "from a policing point of view."

bsawchuk@oostmedia.com

















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Pooches perk up patients

MICHELLE ALLENBERG

Patients at Welland hospital were all smiles when a group of furry friends paid them a visit.

Niagara Health System's new Pet Therapy Program in partnership with St. John Ambulance has been focusing on boosting the mood of patients with the help of therapy dogs. The pups have been visiting natients staying in the Wool-

cott Wing for a few months. The program has expanded apy dogs visit. since to the Mental Health Program at the St. Catharines site, Niagara Health System

to other facilities. Long-term patient Joseph Don Caron has been in hospital for more than a month undergoing treatment for a spinal cord injury. He and his wife Rose Caron said the therapy dogs make a big difference in their day.

"It is just wonderful, to me it has been great ... it helps. People who are in here longer term, than other places, they need that contact with the outside, with animals ... because the animals give them such calm and joy," Rose said dur-

ing a recent pet visit. Joseph and his wife have a dog at home who Joseph said he misses. The Carons' daughter will bring the dog for a visit, which helps, but they said it's also nice to have the pet ther-

Carol Girardi, clinical manager at the Woolcott Wing, said she has seen positive changes plans to expand the program in the patients since the program started. Some patients used to refuse care or didn't want to get out of bed, but Girardi said once they see the

dogs they want to get up. Their whole day changes and it is a nice thing to see. We are very big advocates for the pet therapy program," Girardi

Girardi has noticed the visits have reduced anxiety and hoosted positivity in patients. The NHS program will visit the Woolcott Wing about twice a week with a dog. Girardi said

the dog visits about 35 patients during each visit. Michelle Szabo, recreation therapist at the Woolcott Wing, said staff would love to have dogs visit every day if they could find more volunteers

with therapy dogs. She said patients are always excited when they know a dog is coming to visit Girardi said Szabo spearheaded the program because

there was a time when there were no dogs visiting and it was "sad." Having the therapy creates a positive atmosphere for peo-

MA/lenberg@postmedia.com



Rose Caron and her husband Joseph Don Caron enjoy the company of a pooch named Tequila during a visit from Pet Therapy Dogs Thursday at Welland hospital.

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Ringing new life into Church bell

They soon learned that the

huge clapper in the largest of the church's five bells — a 1,935-kilogram bell named Albert and Mary — had broken in half Gleka, a machinist, saw the damage and said: "I can fix

He recruited another neighbour, Tom Kennedy, to help, and "we used a lot of our rigging techniques" to get the

pieces of the 180-kilogram clapper out of the bell, and haul it down through the narrow openings and ladders to the ground.

"It was a feat in itself," he said Gleka works at Orlick Indus-

tries in Stoney Creek, and the company agreed to allow him to use its facilities to repair the broken clapper. The com-pany's welder also helped out with the repair job.

Kennedy returned to the church, while Peter Wangler from PRW Excavating arrived with a crane to lift the massive

clapper back up to the belfry so they could install it. Gleka isn't a member at Sacre Coeur, but that didn't

stop him from doing what he could to help. I'm doing this for the sense of community," he said. "If a neighbour needs help, if

I'm going to do whatever I can

to help them out." The century-old bells were manufactured in France. and previously rang in Notre Dame de Grace church in Quebec City until that church closed and the build-

ing was renovated into apart-But time is taking their toll on them

Only a few years earlier,

ringing when the electric motor that runs it had worn out. The community also pitched in then to raise funds

to purchase a new motor for that bell. We're fortunate," Roy said. He said repairing the clap-

per would have cost the church well over \$10,000 If it hadn't been for the neighbours as well as Orlick Industries, "it'd still be broken," Roy said.

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Nathan Gelka makes a few last-minute adjustments to a clapper before installing it at Sacre Coeur church.

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Falls Comic Con brings back Mallrats

Next year's Niagara Falls Comic Con will have a mini-Mallrats reunion Stars Jason Mewes, Brian O'Halloran and Jeremy London from Kevin Smith's 1995 cult comedy bave been announced for the three-day June event at Scotiabank Convention Centre.

It will be Mewes' second straight appearance in Niagara Falls, after he joined Smith for a live podcast last year.
"A few hours before Mewes walked out

on stage for the live podcast at last year's Con he hit the show floor unheknownst to fans and commented how awesome the event looked, and how much he wanted to come back and meet and greet fans in 2017," says Comic Con cofounder Chris Dabrowski, "We booked him immediately

Mallrats was Smith's second feature film, bringing back the lay & Silent Bob characters from his classic debut, Clerks. A flop upon its release, it gained a steady following on home video. Much of the cast will return for the TV

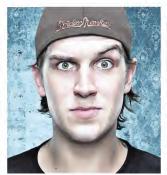
series sequel Mallbrats, currently in preproduction The Mallrate trio continues the Comic Con's recent Kevin Smith trend - in

addition to Smith and Mewes, last year's Con featured Joey Lauren Adams (Mallrats, Chasing Amy). The year before saw cast members of Smith's AMC show Comic Book Men

Other guests already announced for the 2017 Comic Con include I Dream of Jeannie star Barbara Eden, wrestling legend Sting, and star Caleb McLaughlin of the Netflix hit Stranger Things Last year's Con attracted more than

27,000 people. The event runs June 2 to 4. Tickets start at \$25, available at www.nfcomiccon.

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CHEST REPORTED Jason Mewes will join co-stars from the cult '90s comedy Mallrats for a reunion at next year's Niagara Falls Comic Con.



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Homelessness funding falls short of need

"We were boping that the (funding) formula was going to evolve to something more significant for Niagara, given our changing economic conditions. But quite frankly we didn't see that," he said News of the rejigged

funding allocations came as a surprise, he added. Caslin said the Region was told by the province a review of the funding formula was to take place in conjunction with municipal consultation, Niagara included. That assurance came as

recently as August during the Association of Munici palities Ontario conference n Windsor "We were ready to do it. We were fully prepared to participate, but that did not happen," Caslin said

We're a little disap-

pointed that we weren't

funding was announced." Instead, the revised funding approach was the result of recommendations from an expert advisory panel on homelessness, on which Niagara had no representation The local demand for

services is, on average, "ahout three times what the available funding is," Caslin sald, calling funds "insufficient to deal with the pressures we're feeling here in Niagara* The Region, he said, will

reach out to St. Catharines MPP lim Bradley for support to help carry the message to Queen's Park that Niagara is underfunded and its allotment should be re-evaluated

"It is a definite need in Niagara, a demonstrated need in Niagara that we can't ignore," he said, adding "full attention" must be paid to the issue to ensure the appropriate funding is

"If we don't want to cut back on the programs in

2017, we're going to have to get more funding." Cathy Cousins, Niagara Region's director of homelessness services and community engagement, said staff are required to create an investment plan annually that outlines how those provincial dollars will be spent in the areas of emergency shelters, outreach services, prevention pro-

grams and supportive She called it "very rare" for the provincial funding formula to be reviewed and said it seems only a portion was re-evaluated this time around, leaving the majority based on historical allo-

housing.

cations "The optimism on council was that more of the money would have been reassessed with the expectation that that reassessNiagara additional fund-

ing At risk populations, including youths, indigenous people and the chronic homelessness, as well as deep core need where more than 50 per cent of income is used for housing, were also factored into the recent provincial decision

With the increase falling short of what Niagara needs, major areas of concern include the emerency energy fund, which helps families and individuals at risk of having their hydro disconnected, and housing stability plan. which provides first and last month's rent or a rental deposit to help the homeless become housed. While funding has seen

little movement, demand for services in Niagara continues to grow. The emergency energy fund saw 1,502 unique households seeking help in 2015, compared to 1,197 in

Eligible recipients last

year asked for an average of \$487 to help with hydro costs, compared to \$458 in

2015 Niagara's eight emergency shelters funded by the Region served 1.676 unique households in 2014, including 216 children, and 1,615 unique households in 2015, including 244 chil-

That does not include people who returned to shelters on multiple occacione

Through the housing stability plan, 6,748 cheques were issued in 2015 with an average value of \$474 - a number that has been driven up by rising rental costs and a decrease in the supply of rental housing. As a result of the demand

outweighing available funds, "the pressure we're taking forward currently into 2017 budget conversations is about \$475,000." Couring said "We'll have to work through the budget process with council to understand what that

Bradley said last Wednes-

day he is happy to work with the Region to bring the message to Queen's Park that more funding and further consultation is needed to ensure Niagara's

needs are met.

He said it's likely that many communities in Ontario went without consultation on the issue and feel their funding allotments are not enough to prevent homelessness in

their respective areas. 'The needs are just extremely great out there right across the province," Bradley said. *The government is try-

ing to find as much money as possible." In an e-mail to Postme dia Network, Ministry of Housing spokesman Geoffroi Bouchard said historic program spending continues to be used as it "best reflects the existing serv-

ice system to address the

needs of those who are

homeless' "We are allocating these new funds with an eye to preventing those most at risk from becoming homeless, and also maintaining existing allocations to con tinue to provide predictable support to communities that have come to rely on CHPI as an important tool with which to combat homelessness across

Asked about CHPI funding allotments for other Ontario communities Bouchard said announcements will be made in the coming

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Premier touches on Welland hospital future, enhanced child-care

Wynne, however, said Ontario is "not actually

doing a carbon tax. "We are actually implementing a cap and trade system, and what that means is there will be more flexibility in the system that will allow, as revenue comes in to the province, that money will be reinvested," she said. "There will be a cap put on greenhouse gas emissions and that cap will go down over time. The point of a system to tackle climate change is we have to get the greenhouse gas emissions down."

Meanwhile, Wynne said there are no definite plans for the closure of Welland hospital. "We put in place I think it was over \$26 million for a study that looked at what the best decision will be, and

where that change would

Towards the end of our visit there, there are children from the school from the older grades who came out, about four or five of them, and they said, 'Just so you know, we actually support you guys."

Welland resident Phil Gladman

happen and how the best services could be delivered. she said

Wynne said that work is still in progress. "At the root of the system review is how do we make sure that everyone in the Niagara Region has access to the best health care possible, that we can deliver, and that

they have access to it in a

timely and appropriate way,"

she arrived at the school to "have a chance of vocalizing my opinion ... but I wasn't allowed to." He instead pulled out a picket sign to send a message

to the premier. The concerns of protesters, he added, were shared even by students at the elementary school. "Towards the end of our visit there, there are children

Gladman said he hoped

to speak to Wynne when

older grades who came out. about four or five of them. and they said, 'Just so you know, we actually support you guys.," Gladman said.

"They actually bad such a well-spoken opinion. I had to ask if their parents enlightened them about the situation, and that's exactly what they said. They said. 'Our parents have explained it to us. We've beard about hydro rates and what it cost to keep our house warm," he

Hearing the concerns expressed by the younger generations made it worth

it" to be there, Gladman Indira Naidoo-Harris,

cation, responsible for early years and child care, joined Wynne for the visit to the Pelham school that has recently undergone a retrofit of 30 new licensed child care

spaces for toddlers and preschoolers Wynne said being the parent of young children is "verv stressful," particularly when worrying because "they feel they can't find the right place

for their children. "Many parents have those worries, have those concerns and the reality is too many parents are chasing too few child-care spaces right now. That's what we're dealing

with in Ontario."

taries visited the day care centre and helped a few children with a fall art project. There was "one little girl

who covered the whole page with glue and put a few leaves in the middle," Wynne

"Another child took all the leaves and put them all over, and then one little hov was just mixing the glue. It was vogurt, he was wasn't going to do anything with those

"When they're that little. we need places where they can be where the grown-ups understand those things, the premier said.

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funding for 100,000 more child care spots for children up to the age of four. Here she spends a few minutes with Scarlett DeJong and Liam Gordon in the kindergarten room.





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